

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-3, 7, 10, and 11, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (currently amended) A remote operation method of an information processing apparatus connected to an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus via a network, the method comprising:

~~an accessing step of~~ accessing the image processing apparatus;

~~a reception step of receiving,~~ from the image processing apparatus, remote-operating software for the information processing apparatus to remotely operate the image processing apparatus and data [[for]] specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to the accessing ~~in the accessing step;~~

~~a request step of~~ issuing a request for [[the]] an authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data received, ~~if in the reception step in a case where~~ an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user, wherein the authentication process ~~is to authenticate~~ an operation level of the remote operation performed by the information processing apparatus; and

~~a remote operation step of,~~ upon remotely operating the image processing apparatus using the remote-operating software, performing an executable kind of wherein the remote operation is executed by the remote-operating software and is specified permitted by the operation level authenticated in the authentication process among two or more remote operations.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data received in the ~~reception step~~ includes add-on software, and the information processing apparatus requests the authentication apparatus to ~~effect execution of~~ execute the authentication process by the add-on software.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the requested authentication process is ~~to be~~ performed using codes transmitted in the ~~request step~~ and a dictionary that defines operation levels with respect to the image processing apparatus.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the dictionary is contained in the authentication apparatus on the network.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the data is an address of the authentication apparatus on the network.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the remote operation is at least one of: a download operation, a browsing operation, a printing operation, and a transfer operation.

7. (currently amended) An image processing system comprising:
a host computer, an authentication apparatus, and an image processing apparatus connected to a network,

wherein the host computer is configured to access the image processing apparatus,

wherein the image processing apparatus is configured to transmit remote-operating software for the information processing apparatus to remotely operate the image processing apparatus and data [[for]] specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, to the host computer, in response to the access from the information processing apparatus,

wherein the host computer is configured to issue a request for [[the]] an authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data transmitted by the image processing apparatus, ~~if in a case where~~ an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user,

wherein the authentication apparatus is configured to authenticate an operation level of the remote operation performed by the host computer, in response to the request, and

wherein the host computer is configured to, ~~upon remotely operating~~ operate the image processing apparatus using the remote-operating software, ~~performing an executable kind of wherein the~~ remote operation is executed by the remote-operating software and is specified permitted by the operation level authenticated by the authentication apparatus among two or more remote operations.

8. and 9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a remote operation method of an information

processing apparatus connected to an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus via a network, the method comprising:

~~an accessing step of accessing the image processing apparatus;~~

~~a reception step of receiving, from the image processing apparatus, remote-operating software for the information processing apparatus to remotely operate the image-processing apparatus and data~~ ~~[[for]]~~ specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to the accessing ~~in the accessing step;~~

~~a request step of issuing a request for~~ ~~[[the]]~~ ~~an~~ authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data received, ~~if in the reception step in a case where~~ an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user, wherein the authentication process ~~is to~~ authenticates an operation level of the remote operation performed by the information processing apparatus; and

~~a remote operation step of upon~~ remotely operating the image processing apparatus ~~using the remote-operating software, performing an executable kind of wherein the~~ remote operation ~~is executed by the remote-operating software and is specified~~ ~~permitted~~ by the operation level authenticated in the authentication process ~~among two or more remote operations.~~

11. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus connected to an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus via a network, the apparatus comprising:

an accessing unit configured to access the image processing apparatus;

a reception unit configured to receive, ~~data~~ from the image processing apparatus,

remote-operating software for the information processing apparatus to remotely operate the image processing apparatus and data [[for]] specifying the authentication apparatus, which authenticates an operation level of a remote operation, as a response to [[an]] accessing by the accessing unit;

a request unit configured to issue a request for [[the]] an authentication process to the authentication apparatus based on the data received by the reception unit, if in a case where an instruction to operate remotely the image processing apparatus is input by a user, wherein the authentication process ~~is to~~ authenticates an operation level of the remote operation performed by the information processing apparatus;

a remote operation unit configured to; ~~upon remotely operating~~ operate the image processing apparatus using the remote-operating software, perform an executable kind of ~~wherein~~ the remote operation is executed by the remote-operating software and is specified ~~permitted~~ by the operation level authenticated in the authentication process among two or more remote operations.